

ANNUAL REPORT



of Sanitary Conditions of
the Rural District of
Vaynor and Penderyn in
the County of Brecknock,
for the year.

1940

By

W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.



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Merthyr Tydfil :

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Glebeland Street.

VAYNOR AND PENDERYN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. W. G. BOND, A.R.S.I.,
134, High Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE VAYNOR AND PENDERYN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

The Welsh Board of Health has intimated that the Minister has directed that, while for the present he is satisfied that the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health should not be discontinued, he is of opinion that they should be considerably shortened, and should deal with only the usual statistical records for the year and matters affecting the public health especially as they are due to the war and infectious diseases.

The usual figures supplied by the Registrar General, on which most of our calculations are based, have only just been received.

Topography.—The rural district consists of three parishes in the southern part of Breconshire. They extend over an area of eight miles long and 12 miles wide. The boundaries have been given in previous reports.

Area.—

Parish of Penderyn	...	13,366 acres.
Parish of Vaynor	...	6,551 acres.
Parish of Ystradfellte	...	19,355 acres.
Total	...	<u>39,272 acres.</u>

It will be noticed that the parish of Ystradfellte has the greatest area, but the density of the population was only 0.033 per acre, that of Penderyn was 0.14 per acre, and that of Vaynor was 0.84 per acre. Ystradfellte is very sparsely populated and has only two small hamlets, whereas Penderyn has two villages, and Vaynor two villages.

POPULATION.

Registrar General's estimate of—

(a) Resident population (National Register)	...	5,107
(b) Average population for calculation of death rate	...	5,107

X 500

Number of inhabited houses (30th September, 1940) :—

Parish of Penderyn	...	...	477
Parish of Vaynor	...	...	865
Parish of Ystradfellte	...	...	160
<hr/>			
Total	...	...	1,502
<hr/>			

RATEABLE VALUE.

As on 30th September, 1940 :—

Parish of Penderyn	...	£12,316
Parish of Vaynor	...	£19,320
Parish of Ystradfellte	...	£6,395
<hr/>		
Total	...	£38,031
<hr/>		

PRODUCT OF PENNY RATE.

Parish of Penderyn	...	£55 7 5
Parish of Vaynor	...	£80 16 4
Parish of Ystradfellte	...	£27 1 1
<hr/>		
Total	...	£163 4 10
<hr/>		

POPULATION (Census Return).

<i>Census</i> 1931.	<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
Penderyn	...	973	...	885	1,858
Vaynor	...	1,544	...	1,619	3,163
Ystradfellte	...	341	...	309	650
<hr/>					5,671
<hr/>					

<i>Census</i>	<i>Year</i>		<i>Year</i>		<i>Year</i>		<i>Year</i>
	1901		1911		1921		1931
Vaynor and Penderyn	4,766	...	5,526	...	5,674	...	5,021
Ystradfellte	—	...	627	...	613	...	650

The decrease from 1921 to 1931 of the three parishes was 9.8 per cent.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The births in the Rural District numbered 90, namely, 44 males and 46 females; 1 female birth was illegitimate. The rate of births on the Registrar General's estimated population of 5,107 was 17.6 per 1,000. In 1939 the birth rate was 14.6 per 1,000, and for the county of Brecon for the same year it was 14.52. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1940 has been announced as 14.6 per 1,000.

Still-births.—There was only one still-birth in the district in the year. There were 5 in 1939 and 8 in 1938. The still-birth rate in England and Wales in 1940 was .55; in this district in 1940 the rate was .2 per 1,000; in the county of Brecon the rate in 1939 was .76.

Deaths.—The total deaths assigned to this district in 1940, including inward and outward transfers (16 inward and 2 outward), was 75, namely 52 males and 23 females. This yields a death rate on the average population of 14.6 per 1,000. In the year 1939 deaths numbered 79, and the rate was 15 per 1,000. In 1938 the rate was 16.69 per 1,000. The death rate for England and Wales in 1940 was 14.3 per 1,000. The rate for the county of Brecon in 1939 was 12.9 per 1,000.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.—There was one death assigned to these causes during the year. This death occurred in hospital. The rate per 1,000 births was 11.1.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.—There were 7 deaths of infants under one year of age—6 males and 1 female; none of these deaths were of illegitimate infants. Five of the deaths were stated to be due to premature birth and congenital debility. The rate per 1,000 live births was 63; in the previous year it was 90.9. The rate in England and Wales in 1940 is given as 55. In Breconshire in 1939 the rate was 50.91.

Deaths from Cancer.—There were 5 deaths from cancer (3 males, 2 females) compared with 10 in the previous year.

Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.—There was no such death during the year.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—There were 4 deaths from tuberculosis (3 males, 1 female), but none from other infectious disease.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ...	3	1
Influenza	1	1
Cancer	3	2
Diabetes	1	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	2	1
Heart Disease	12	5
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	0	1
Bronchitis	4	4
Pneumonia	3	1
Digestive Disorders	1	1
Nephritis	3	1
Puerperal Sepsis	0	1
Premature Birth	1	1
Malformation at Birth ...	3	0
Violence	5	0
All other causes	10	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ...	52	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>

General Sickness.—It will be noted that the death rate for the district appears to be gradually improving, and I have no reason to think that the existing conditions during the war period have had any prejudicial effect on the public health.

HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Officers.—The Medical Officer of Health possesses the D.P.H. The Sanitary Inspector has the Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute and a certificate for Meat Inspection; he has one clerk. He also carries out the duties of Sanitary Engineer and Surveyor.

Laboratory Services.—R. Pendrill Charles, Esq., F.C.S., Public Analyst and Bacteriologist, is regularly consulted in matters of water analysis and to furnish other bacteriological reports. Samples of milk are referred to Aberystwyth University College from time to time.

Ambulance Facilities.—Adequate provision is made by the local hospitals, and the Council has made arrangements for such service to the outlying districts.

Nursing at Home.—This is undertaken by voluntary associations, assisted by grants from the County Council.

Clinics are carried on by the County Council for expectant mothers and infant welfare at Cefn and Penderyn.

Hospitals.—Good provision is made in this respect by the General Hospitals at Merthyr and Aberdare as stated in my last report; there is also the Public Institution Hospital at Brecon. With regard to hospitals for infectious diseases, the joint hospital proposed at Brecon is not likely to be built until peace is restored; and, in the meantime, an arrangement exists whereby cases are admitted to Mardy Hospital at Merthyr.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—Practically the whole of the district is well supplied with good water from public mains. Cefn Coed, Pontsticill and Vaynor generally from those of the Taf Fechan Water Board, Hirwaun from those of the Aberdare Council, Pont-neath-Vaughan from Neath, and Penderyn and Ystradfellte by supplies furnished by your Council.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

All the villages in the district have been provided by you with drainage and sewage disposal works, and there only remains the small hamlet of Ystradfellte to have attention. Plans for this place had been completed, and the outbreak of war only prevented their being carried out and so enable you to boast that the whole of your district has had this very necessary provision made.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

A daily collection of refuse is made, and the incinerator at Cefn continues to give satisfaction; it is hoped to provide one at Hirwaun also, as soon as circumstances permit.

MILK, MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Farms and dairies have been regularly visited by your Sanitary Inspector, and special attention has been given to other foods supplied under prevailing conditions.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN 1940.

<i>Disease.</i>		<i>Total Cases.</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Small Pox	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	5	1	0
Diphtheria	...	6	3	0
Enteric Fever	...	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	5	0	3
Puerperal Pyrexia..		2	1	1
Erysipelas...	...	0	0	0
Cerebro-spin. Fever		1	1	1
Measles	... ..	63	0	0

The district continued to be relatively free from infectious disease, with the exception of a rapid outbreak of measles at Cefn in October, when I advised the closing of the Infants' School for a month, with the good result that the attack ceased quickly.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY IN 1940 :—

<i>Age Periods.</i>	<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
	<i>Re- spiratory.</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory.</i>		<i>Re- spiratory.</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory</i>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 to 5 years...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5 to 15 „ ...	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15 to 25 „ ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
25 to 35 „ ...	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals ...	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	1

It will be observed that the total number of deaths from tuberculosis (2) does not correspond with the total assigned to the district (4); this is due to transfer of such deaths of residents who died elsewhere. I am not aware of any case of tuberculosis not notified, and there was no occasion for action under the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

HOUSING.

As a result of an appeal for permission to complete eight houses which were in course of erection by the Council at Hirwaun, sanction was given, and the houses were occupied during 1940, making a satisfactory provision for slum clearance and overcrowding at that place.

To carry out the complete scheme of the Council, 74 houses are to be erected at Cefn, in addition to the 44 houses already erected and occupied there, and six houses at Pontsticill, six at Penderyn, and 12 at Pont-neath-Vaughan. The land for these additional houses has been secured, and plans are ready to proceed when permission is given.

Up to the present, 104 houses have been erected in the district by the Council, and 98 remain to be erected.

EVACUATION.

The Council received 143 refugees (women and children) at Hirwaun during the year. Reception at Cefn could not be entertained at the time owing to a widespread outbreak of measles.

Schools.—These have been inspected during the year. Pontsticill School requires considerable improvement which cannot, however, be undertaken under present conditions.

Factories and Workshops.—The report of the Sanitary Inspector on his visits of inspection, and other details, are omitted this year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME.							£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward from 31st March, 1939	...	...	...	...	...	...	3407	17	9½
Rate Income—									
General Expenses chargeable upon the whole District	...	...	...	...	...	...	30685	15	7
Special Rates	...	...	...	...	...	...	2584	11	5
Water Rates (Penderyn)	...	...	...	...	...	...	77	12	0
Water Charges (Ystradfellte)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	6	0
Ministry of Health—									
Parochial Exchequer Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	191	10	0
Tithe Act Grant	...	...	...	...	...	...	288	5	7
Ministry of Labour—									
Grant—Penderyn Waterworks	...	...	...	...	...	...	97	12	8
County Council—									
Salaries of Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector—Grant..	...	...	...	...	...	...	220	0	0
Proportion of Parochial Exchequer Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	132	15	0
Scavenging...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	6	0
Other Income—									
Cardiff Corporation—Ex-gratia payment towards repair of sewer at Cefn Coed	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	0	0
Rentals of Gardens—Cefn Sewerage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	8	6
Rent of Garden—Cefn Coed (Cefn Isaf)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	0
Public Conveniences—Pontsarn...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	11
do. Pontsticill	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	8	0
do. Penderyn	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	13	2
do. Ystradfellte	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	6	0
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	18	4
Extracts from Valuation List for H.M.I. of Taxes, and Telephone Calls	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	9	9
Searches—Land Charges Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	0
Petrol Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	15	0
Bank Interest	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	12	11

£37,799 10 7½

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1940.—Part I.

EXPENDITURE.						£	s.	d.
Due Under Precepts—								
Breconshire County Council	...	...	...	...	...	25809	14	0
Breconshire Assessment Committee	...	...	...	...	...	79	5	2
Vaynor Parish Council	...	...	...	...	...	60	0	0
Penderyn Parish Council	...	...	...	...	...	30	0	0
Ystradfellte Parish Council	...	...	...	...	...	79	18	9
Other Expenses—								
Cefn Coed Sewerage Works—Working Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	311	17	2
do. do. Loan and Interest	...	...	...	...	...	520	8	5
Pontsticill Sewerage Works—Working Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	157	18	9
do. do. Loan and Interest	...	...	...	...	...	108	18	6
Hirwaun Sewerage Works—Working Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	185	15	11
do. do. re Housing Scheme—Loan and Interest	...	...	...	...	...	8	19	8
Penderyn Sewerage Works—Working Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	111	5	4
do. do. Loan and Interest	...	...	...	...	...	203	5	8
Pont-Neath-Vaughan Sewerage—Working Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	150	2	7
do. do. Loan and Interest...	...	...	...	...	...	115	9	2
Penderyn Waterworks—Working Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	179	16	4
do. do. Loan and Interest	...	...	...	...	...	288	19	8
Cross Bychan Water Supply—Loan and Interest	...	...	...	...	...	9	16	8
Penderyn Water (Ogof Fawr)—Loan and Interest	...	...	...	...	...	129	15	7
Children's Playing Field, Cefn Coed—Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	3	10	3
do. do. do. Loan and Interest	...	...	...	...	...	113	11	10
Financial Adjustment—Loan and Interest	...	...	...	...	...	458	6	4
Scavenging—Vaynor Parish	...	...	...	...	...	316	6	1
do. Penderyn Parish	...	...	...	...	...	97	10	0
do. Ystradfellte Parish	...	...	...	...	...	86	10	6
Notification of Disease and General Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	67	6	5
Salaries, etc., Health Services	...	...	...	...	...	653	16	11
Public Conveniences—Pontsarn...	...	...	...	...	...	0	19	1
do. Cefn	...	...	...	...	...	0	15	3
do. Penderyn	...	...	...	...	...	11	5	10
do. Pontsticill	...	...	...	...	...	0	9	1
do. Ystradfellte	...	...	...	...	...	39	10	11
Maintenance of Fever Patients...	...	...	...	...	...	61	19	8
Water Analyses	...	...	...	...	...	4	15	7
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	0	15	0
Returns of Births and Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	1	19	8
Housing (Slum Clearance, etc.) Acts	...	...	...	...	...	183	13	9
Public Lighting—Vaynor Parish	...	...	...	...	...	195	15	9
do. Penderyn Parish	...	...	...	...	...	211	5	7
do. Ystradfellte Parish	...	...	...	...	...	28	3	2
Fire Brigades	...	...	...	...	...	27	13	6
Legal Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	8	14	0
Additional Rate Fund Contribution—Housing Revenue A/c	...	...	...	...	...	0	19	1
Annual Contribution—Housing Revenue A/c	...	...	...	...	...	300	12	1
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts	...	...	...	...	...	17	9	11
Salaries of Officers	...	...	...	...	...	296	0	0
Valuation Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	252	16	10½
Telephone Kiosk, Cefn Coed	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Yard and Shed Rentals	...	...	...	...	...	15	16	0
Council Yard Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	0
Establishment Charges	...	...	...	...	...	317	4	9
Cost of Collection—General Rate	...	...	...	...	...	548	16	8
do. Special Rate	...	...	...	...	...	47	15	5
Miscellaneous Payments (Roadside Seats, £17/10/6; National Insurances, £29/13/0; Cefn Coed Nursing Association, £25; other Payments, £47/1/10)	...	...	...	...	...	119	5	4
Brecon County Council—Superannuation Fund	...	...	...	...	...	127	13	0
Ystradfellte Sewerage—Working Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	0
Balance	..	...	...	...	..	4634	18	0
						£37,799	10	7½

LOAN AND CAPITAL

INCOME.					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Balances brought forward—</i>										
Playing Fields	...	...	...	...	835	15	4			
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	1213	2	0			
					<hr/>			2048	17	4
Small Dwelling Acquisition—										
Repayments of Advances	...	...						19	10	0
Housing—										
Loan raised	...	...	...	...				1573	0	0
Revenue and Special Accounts	...							505	11	1
Sewerage Works—										
Government Grants	...	...						1390	0	0
Water Supply—										
Loan raised	...	...	...	...				97	0	0
<i>Balances carried forward—</i>										
Housing	...	...	...	...	471	0	5			
Small Dwelling Acquisition	...					4	6	8		
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	770	10	3			
					<hr/>			1245	17	4
								<hr/>		
								£6,879	15	9
								<hr/>		

Audited and found correct,

A. R. PARR,
Assistant District Auditor.

21st August, 1940.





